

Poor Quality

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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A. J. CAYWOOD.

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FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Special Correspondence

Senator Penrose's proposal to revive and to press for action the lodge bill of 1890 for the federal regulation of elections is regarded here as a rather long look ahead. The present congress is democratic. The senate of the next congress will be democratic. A democratic president will occupy the White House until March, 1921. Therefore, unless the democratic party experiences a Billy Sunday change of heart and relinquishes its ancient opposition to what it terms a "force bill," there is little chance that nation-wide elections will be held under a general statute before those of 1922.

There are however, a few democrats who have expressed a willingness to have their party submit to the constitutional penalty which is provided for the privilege of suppressing the colored vote—which no democrat has the effrontery to deny. Senator Vardaman of Mississippi, for instance, at the beginning of his service here, made a movement to take up the question. An approaching election, however, checked his ardor and he has never renewed the proposition. His colleague, Senator Williams, has made at least one speech in which he seemed to squint toward a willingness to take the medicine which is prescribed for an abridgment of the suffrage. And now comes Senator Chamberlain of Oregon with his plan for popular election of president, which implies of course, federal control of the election machinery.

It may be, therefore, that Senator Penrose is hoping to align these senators—and, maybe, others—to support his measure as a part of the general movement for a direct choice of president by popular vote.

One thing is certain—if the Penrose measure is to be pushed at the present session of congress, there will be precious little else considered in the senate aside from the appropriation bills.

Farmers of the northwest have been unofficially informed that prices of farm machinery and binding twine will be materially advanced during the coming season. There's goodbye to some of the big war-order profits secured from last year's wheat.

Carranza sympathizers near the border say that the defeat of the Carranza forces by Villa at Chihuahua was due to the American embargo on ammunition. Having raised and lowered the embargo so many times, perhaps the Mexicans think President Wilson will raise it once more and give them a chance to get American bullets with which to slay American soldiers.

Now that all opportunity for political capital is past, Josephus Daniels' paper, the Raleigh News & Observer, prints a long and detailed account of the northward migration of negroes. And the story relates entirely to employment. It was purely a case of the jobs hunting the men. No politics in it. But it served the purpose of enabling some democratic peanut politicians to cast slurs at republican campaign managers in the north. There are many things in the history of their campaign of

which the democrats have ample reason to be ashamed.

Among the interesting after-election opinions is one advanced by the Houston Post to the effect that this country should display a diplomacy. Our communications, especially to the British government, it says, should take on the "directness and force which it was the custom of Richard Olney to impart to them." The Olney notes to England also "kept us out of war," it should be remembered.

Champ Clark's idea to abolish the gallery in the house of representatives would put an end to playing to the gallery only in the house. As David Harum observed, "There's as much human nature in most of us as in others, if not more." And one of the demands of human nature in legislative bodies is an opportunity to make speeches "for Buncombe county," as one frank lawmaker long ago admitted.

Down in Virginia a man applied for appointment as a game warden, and, in answer to questions regarding his qualifications, inadvertently disclosed the fact that "there are certain parties around here that I want to get back at." In due course of time he ought to be available for appointment as controller of the currency.

There are some people who still argue that there should be absolute free trade between the United States and Canada. When the war ends and we read the new trade laws by which Great Britain and her allies guarantee advantages among themselves and their colonies, even these free traders will change their views. The United States will wake up some fine morning to find that the Canadian producer has a decided advantage in the British market.

Missouri Summer Session

The eleven months school term which has been discussed by the newspapers of the Missouri Valley since its endorsement by the presidents of the Valley universities at their meeting recently in Kansas City, has been in force in the university of Missouri for a number of years. At the university it is known as the summer session which is a two months term opening shortly after the close of the winter term. Missouri is the pioneer of the Valley.

The only change which is suggested in the system when adopted by the valley universities is that from the division of the school year into semesters to a division into quarters—making the summer session the fourth quarter of the school year. The summer session of the university of Missouri will this next year be extended to include schools in which heretofore courses have not been given. The average enrollment of the Missouri summer session is more than 700.

H. J. Waters, president of the Kansas state agricultural college, expresses the belief that the eleven months school year will soon be adopted by grammar and high schools.

Moving picture magnates will confer a favor on their patrons by showing arctic scenes for the benefit of those who can't get away for the summer.

When the bride's mother cries at the wedding, the groom begins to realize how a sheep thief must feel when caught at his miserable crime.

Londoners are wearing old clothes for the sake of economy, which is rather hard on English valets accustomed to receiving their master's cast-off garments.

The war appears to be getting back into its former stride, and is once more dealing in those round numbers which were so popular earlier in the contest. The Russians have taken 40,000 prisoners.

DR. R. E. HAYS.

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